



Tuesday, March 9, 2020 | 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. EST
Zoom Emergency Meeting

Minutes—Draft for Approval

Present: Laura Collins, President; Kendall King, 1st VP; Patsy Duff, 2nd VP; Linda Harklau, Past President; Glenn Martinez, Treasurer; Charlene Polio, Member-At-Large; Naoko Taguchi, Member-At-Large (excused for late arrival); Nicole Deschene for James Coda, GSC Representative; Sarah Berke, Ex Officio; Jessica Atkinson, Ex Officio; and Fabiola Ehlers-Zavala, Secretary; James Coda, GSC Representative.

Excused: Christina Higgins, Member-At-Large.

President Laura Collins called the meeting to order at around 11:06 a.m. EST.

Approval of the Agenda.

President Collins indicated that, given COVID-19, the purpose of this meeting was to reach a decision on the AAAL 2020 Conference and discuss potential issues derived from the decision the EC reaches.

MOTION

Glenn Martinez made the motion to approve the agenda item and the motion was seconded by Patsy Duff. All members present voted unanimously to approve the agenda item. **The motion was adopted.**

President Collins then proceeded to initiate the discussion by turning to 1st VP, Kendall King, for her comments.

Kendall offered her perspective on the need to cancel the conference. She provided background behind her point of view, highlighting the high volume of communication received seeking cancellations, including participants in colloquia. She noted that, given the state of affairs, she no longer felt that the intellectual viability of the conference was possible. She had heard from a number of members who had expressed concern about public health.

EC members then asked questions to Kendall, including number of plenaries that had pulled out. Kendall indicated that the responses were very mixed at that point with at least one person seeking to cancel.

During this discussion, Patsy noted that she had seen the message from Lourdes regarding the GURT (co-organized by Lourdes) as being cancelled.



Then, Sarah Berke proceeded to offer background on the impact of the cancellation. She noted that she had contacted Insurance, and she confirmed that AAAL does not carry event cancellation insurance. She also indicated that she had contacted Hamilton, and she had learned that our investments were down about 10-15%, and that if we had to pull resources out of investments, this was the worst time to do so.

Other EC members offered comments in response noting that it was hard to predict how low the market would go.

Then, a review of expenses was conducted (e.g., cost of hotel, interpreters, plenaries, photography). It was noted that a deposit had already been paid in the amount of \$27,934, and that there was a remaining balance of \$269,664. The net financial cost was noted as \$587,508.50, and the net need from investments was estimated in \$451,508.50.

At this point, Laura offered the floor for additional questions on the financials for Sarah.

Patsy raised the question as to whether or not the \$30K to FFAL could be used to offset any of the above. Laura responded by indicating that this would be a good suggestion to consider once a decision was made. Then, Laura proceed to re-focus the discussion on whether or not the EC would want to cancel the 2020 Conference.

Then, Laura aske the EC members to offer comments organized in two parts:

- 1) Current opinion
- 2) Current implication

EC members proceeded to offer their perspectives. Staff members also provided their perspectives.

Having considered the various perspectives, it was clear to President Collins that there was unanimous consensus to cancel this year's conference.

Outcome: The AAAL EC, supported by opinions expressed by the Staff, decided it was in the best interest of the membership to cancel the 2020 Conference.

Discussion then turned towards the need to discuss how to communicate this decision to the membership as soon as possible.



Then, the EC started discussion of a potential virtual conference, but this was not conclusive. Instead, the EC decided to table this item.

Following the above, the EC turned to discuss potential strategies for registration refunds.

MOTION

Kendall introduced a motion to refund 90% of the registration to those who request it. Glenn seconded this motion. There was no further discussion. All members present voted unanimously in favor. **The motion was adopted.**

At this time, Laura asked Glenn to please work with Sarah on the message/process for reimbursements. Kendall and Laura would also provide feedback on it.

Following the above, it became clear that there were other items that needed to be further discussed regarding payment (e.g., food, beverage, sponsors). It was noted that another meeting would be needed to detail with additional details.

Laura then proceeded to offer a summary of actions needed:

- 1) Sarah and Glenn to work together on a message to the membership.
- 2) Sarah and Glenn to work on the registration reimbursement.
- 3) Kendall to reach out to plenary speakers.
- 4) A sub-group to get together to discuss financials.
- 5) Laura to contact TESOL and share our news.

It was also noted that other items (volunteers, grad. student awards, etc.) would need another meeting and be decided prior to March 26-27.

Finally, Laura issued a deep-felt thank you to everyone, and in particular to Kendall.

The meeting was adjourned at around 12:42 p.m.

Prepared by F. Ehlers-Zavala, Secretary
Submitted for EC review on May 27, 2020
Remarks:

- Approved on (Date) _____
- Approved with editions on (Date):